

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE C-6

SAN DIEGO UNION
20 AUGUST 1978

Soviet Harassment Of Americans Reflects New Flowering Of Arrogance

Adm. Stansfield Turner, U.S. director of central intelligence, pointed out several signs of continuing Soviet pressure against the United States in an exclusive interview with editors of The San Diego Union.

Turner's comments focused on the latest incidents of Soviet harassment of American reporters and businessmen in Moscow, the discovery of a KGB tunnel into the American Embassy and harsh prison sentences given in the latest trials of dissidents. He called the harassment of Americans an apparent response to the U.S. arrest of two Russians caught spying in this country.

The CIA director also expressed concern about what or who may be behind what he described as continuing efforts to undercut America's intelligence gathering services. He included former CIA agent Philip Agee's threat to reveal the identities of as many overseas CIA agents as he can, saying that such a disclosure would jeopardize the lives of these agents, as well as seriously damage U.S. ability to collect needed intelligence data. The interview follows:

Question: Admiral, why is the Soviet Union harassing American businessmen and newspaper people in Moscow?

Answer: The Soviets have taken these unconscionable actions apparently in retaliation for the perfectly proper arrest of two Soviet spies who were caught in the process of spying in this country.

Q: What is the relationship of what's happening there to detente as a whole?

A: I think you have to recognize that detente has never meant that there is no competition between our countries. It has tried to dampen the military element of that competition there are bound to be ups and downs in the relationships over periods of time. I don't view this particular series of events as a major impact on detente.

Q: Is the KGB being more arrogant or more open?

A: When we discover a tunnel that the KGB has dug into the United States Embassy in Moscow and they file the protest with us; they're damned arrogant.

Q: What should the United States response be?

A: That's a question for the Secretary of State and the President.

Q: Do you think the trials of dissidents are going to result in harsher sentences because of the worldwide attention than otherwise would have been the case?

A: I think that it is very difficult to speculate on what the legal processes in the Soviet Union might do or might not do. They are certainly carefully controlled, as contrasted with our country. I don't read the sentencing of Shcharansky, for instance, as having been terribly influenced by the publicity. I think perhaps the fact that he was brought to trial was a rejoinder to the public criticism; they were showing that they were not going to let the public criticism completely control their internal domestic activities as they see them.

Q: Do you think the Russians will be more tough as the Soviet leadership changes and Brezhnev disappears?

A: That's a real sixty-four dollar question. And I don't really believe there's a way to speculate in a very informed manner as to whether they will be tougher or less cooperative. Brezhnev clearly has been one of the leading exponents of detente and of SALT, so one has to be concerned whether with the loss of his influence there will be as much emphasis on those.

Q: Phillip Agee, the renegade CIA agent, recently announced his intentions of exposing every CIA agent abroad. How much of a danger do you regard this as being?

A: A very serious one and one that I can do very little about. I'd like to see you do something about it. I'm not allowed to investigate Ameri-



"I don't really believe there's a way to speculate in a very informed manner as to whether they (the Soviets) will be tougher or less cooperative."

cans, quite properly, but I'd like to lay before you the question for a good investigative reporter. What is going on here? We've got Agee pub-

QA

lishing a very smooth, expensive but free distribution publication strictly against the CIA. We've got a world youth festival in Havana with Agee on the forum and others who have been brought down for that purpose. We've got other activities in this country directly pointed at undercutting our intelligence activities. They are not cheap; somebody's behind this, somebody's funding this and moving it. I think it's insidious, but within the limits of the law I have no authority to go out and try to either find out who's doing it or to curb it.

CONTINUED